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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/603,308	06/23/2000	Brian Wolfe	5053-27900	1777

7590 07/22/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

FRENEL, VANEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3626	

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/603,308

Applicant(s)

WOLFE ET AL.

Examiner

Vanel Frenel

Art Unit

3626

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 23 June 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires ____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____.

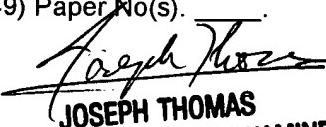
3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: None.Claim(s) objected to: None.Claim(s) rejected: 1-62.Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: None.

8. The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s).

10. Other: _____. 

JOSEPH THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Continuation of 5:

Applicant's request for consideration does not place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant arguments filed 06/23/03 with respect to claims 1-63 are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments will be addressed hereinbelow in the order in which they appear in the response filed 06/23/03.

(A) (1) At pages 13-22 of the 06/23/03 response, Applicant argues that the Examiner has the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness; (2) Applicant argues that McKee does not disclose "wherein said database is separate from said rule engine; and a translator program which is operable to read formula data from said database and transform said formula data into said formulas of said plurality of rules; (3) Hammond does not disclose "formulas of said plurality of rules"; (4) There is no suggestion or motivation in the references or in the knowledge generally available to combine the reference teachings; Hammond does not appear to teach "at least one entry comprises a formula identifier" (5) McKee does not appear to teach databases or page identifiers in a database and McKee does not appear to teach "modified formula data" and "modified translator program" or "reading" said modified formula data from said database and transform said modified formula data into a modified plurality of formulas"

In response to Applicant's first argument, Examiner respectfully suggests one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); In RE Merck & Co., 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Further, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

In response to Applicant's second argument, Examiner respectfully suggests that McKee discloses "business information system includes a multitude of interconnected computers, printers, scanners, communications equipment, and other peripheral devices, allowing the business to automate much of the processing of its business information (See McKee, Col.1, lines 15-67 to Col.2, line 40).

In response to Applicant's third argument, Examiner respectfully suggests that McKee discloses "business rules might be used to assist in various business decisions, such as whether to increase (or decrease) staffing, how many resources to allocate to a particular project, or when to introduce a new product to the market (See McKee, Col.1, lines 38-57). Furthermore, McKee discloses "an alternative approach has been formulated, which allows developers to create modular business rules, and allows business experts to specify rule parameters using a high-level business rules language (See McKee, Col.2, lines 12-16). Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's fourth argument, Examiner respectfully suggests that obviousness is not determined on the basis of the evidence as a whole and the relative persuasiveness of the arguments. See In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); In re Hedges, 783 F.2d 1038, 1039, 228 USPQ 685, 686 (Fed. Cir. 1992); In re Piaseckii, 745 F.2d 1468, 1472, 223 USPQ 785, 788 (Fed. Cir. 1984); In re Rinehart, 531 F.2d 1048, 1052, 189 USPQ 143, 147 (CCPA 1976). Using this standard, the Examiner respectfully submits that he has at least satisfied the burden of presenting a prima facie case of obviousness, since he has presented evidence of corresponding claim elements in the prior art and has expressly articulated the combinations and the motivations for combinations that fairly suggest Applicant's claimed invention (See paper number 5). Note, for example, in the instant case, the Examiner respectfully notes that each and every motivation to combine the applied references are accompanied by select portions of the respective reference(s) which specifically support that particular motivation and/or an explanation based on the logic and scientific reasoning of one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention that support a holding of obviousness. As such, it is not seen that the Examiner's combination of references is unsupported by the applied prior art of record. Rather, it is respectfully submitted that explanation based on the logic and scientific reasoning of one of ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention that support a holding of obviousness has been adequately provided by the motivations and reasons indicated by the Examiner, Ex parte Levengood, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter., 4/22/93). Therefore, the combination of references is proper and the rejection is maintained. In addition, the Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily altered or modified and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed modifications. However, although the Examiner agrees that the motivation or suggestion to make modifications must be articulated, it is respectfully contended that there is no requirement that the motivation to make modifications must be expressly articulated within the references themselves. References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures, In re Bozek, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969). Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's fifth argument, Examiner respectfully suggests that McKee discloses "network adapter may be used to connect data processing system 20 to a local area network 94. Network 94 may provide computer users with means of communicating and transferring software and information electronically. Additionally, network 94 may provide distributed processing, which involves several computers in the sharing of workloads or cooperative efforts in performing a task (which the Examiner interprets as "modified formula data" and "modified translator program" or "reading" See McKee, Col.7, lines 20-35). Therefore, Applicant's argument is not persuasive.